

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 ACDA-05 SAJ-01

MC-02 (ISO) W

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R 201943Z OCT 75

FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

TO CDR USAPE FRANKFURT GE//AEUPC-PSP/

DA WASHDC//TSP-C/

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 5230

SECDEF WASHDC

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

USAREUR HEIDELBERG GE

RUFTREN CO MSC ELM BREMERHAVEN GE

CDR 4TH TRANS BDE OBERURSEL GE

USMISSION NATO

CINCUSAFE

CINCUSNAVEUR

DIA WASHDC

CO MSC WASHDC

USNMR SHAPE

CDR USATTGE ROTTERDAM NL//ARUIR-TM/

MSCO ROTTERDAM NL

COMSCLANT BAYONNE NEW JERSEY

C O N F I D E N T I A L BRUSSELS 09433

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MMOL, MARR, NATOR, BE, US

SUBJECT: RESTRICITIONS ON USE OF ZEEBRUGGE FOR MUNITIONS SHIPMENTS

REF: A. CDR USA PAE FKT GER 091230Z OCT 75

B. US EMB BRUSSELS 08847 DTG 021606Z OCT 7-PASEP

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1. SUMMARY. BELGIAN AUTHORITIES HAVE CURRENT INTENTION OF

IMPOSING RESTRICTIONS ON MUNITIONS HANDLING IN PORT OF ZEEBRUGGE BY 25 NOV THAT WOULD BE UNTENABLE TO USG. DISCUSSIONS TO RECONSIDER RESTRICTIONS UPCOMING. IN THE INTERIM, TERMINAL SERVICES CONTRACT FOR PORT OF ZEEBRUGGE EXPIRES 31 OCT AND U.S. SHIP SCHEDULED TO ARRIVE ZEEBRUGGE ON NOV 1. COUNTRY TEAM CLNC FOR AWARD OF NEW CONTRACT IS BEING TEMPORARILY WITHHELD TO PROVIDE BARGAINING LEVERAGE. EXTENSION OF PRESENT CONTRACT, IF FEASIBLE, APPEARS TO BE BEST ALTERNATIVE. END SUMMARY.

2. TEXT OF REF A, ADDRESSED ONLY TO CHAAG BRUSSELS BE, QUOTED AS FOLLOWS: "THIS AGENCY CONTEMPLATES AWARD OF PRIME CONTRACT FOR TERMINAL OPERATION SERVICES IN PORT OF ZEEBRUGGE BELGIUM, IN THE ESTIMATED AMOUNT OF \$1,000,000 BY 1 NOV 75 TO FIRM: RUYS & CO, B-8380 ZEEBRUGGE, BELGIUM, HAVELDAM 2. PRIOR TO DATE CITED REQUEST WHETHER AWARD SHOULD BE DENIED. FOUO CLASSIFICATION TO BE REMOVED UPON AWARD OF CONTRACT."

3. REGRET THAT UNDER PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES AS DESCRIBED REF B IN WHICH CONTINUITY OF U.S. USE OF PORT OF ZEEBRUGGE FOR MUNITIONS SHIPMENTS IS IN JEOPARDY, COUNTRY TEAM CLNC

FOR AWARD OF TERMINAL OPERATION SERVICES MUST BE DENIED UNTIL ALTERNATIVES INVESTIGATED. THIS TEMPORARY DECISION FOR DENIAL BASED PRIMARILY ON NEED TO RETAIN BARGAINING POSITION THAT COULD PROVE USEFUL IN FORTHCOMING DISCUSSIONS WITH LOCAL AUTHORITIES SCHED FOR 5 NOV. SINCE THERE ANNOUNCED INTENTION IS TO IMPOSE UNTENABLE RESTRICTIONS ON HANDLING OF MUNITIONS AT ZEEBRUGGE ON 25 NOV 75, THE LIFE OF RENEWAL CONTRACT COULD BE BRIEF IN ANY EVENT. AN ALTERNATE SOLUTION THAT WOULD RETAIN SERVICES OF REPUTABLE FIRM RUYS AND COMPANY UNTIL SITUATION CLARIFIED WOULD BE IN THE U.S. INTEREST.

4. IN ADDITION TO THOSE CITED REF B, UNDERSTAND THAT THE FOLLOWING CONDITIONS OR ALTERNATIVES ARE PERTINENT TO PROBLEM:

A. NEGOTIATIONS WITH RUYS AND COMPANY ARE PROCEEDING ON A PRIORITY BASIS IN THAT THE PRESENT TERMINAL OPERATIONS CONFIDENTIAL

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CONTRACT EXPIRES 31 OCT AND A U.S. CARGO SHIP WILL ARRIVE ZEEBRUGGE 1 NOV.

B. EXTENSION OF PRESENT CONTRACT IS POSSIBLE AND COULD BE NEGOTIATED PROVIDED APPROVAL TO DO SO IS GRANTED BY DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY.

C. PROCEED WITH CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS BUT INSURE CON-

TRACTUAL TERMS INCLUDE COMPLETE NEGATION OF CONTRACT WITHOUT PENALTIES TO U.S. IF BELGIANS IMPOST ANY SEVERE MUNITIONS HANDLING CONDITIONS, SUCH AS THOSE CONTAINED IN REF B.

D. THE 1 NOV SHIP ARRIVAL COULD BE DIVERTED TO NORDENHAM GERMANY BUT ATTENDANT COSTS WOULD EXCEED ZEEBRUGGE OPERATION BY UP TO \$70,000 PROVIDED NO PRICE INCREASE OF SERVICE IN NEW ZEEBRUGGE CONTRACT. DUE TO ANTICIPATED INCREASE, HOWEVER, DIFFERENCE MAY BE FAR LESS.

5. ASSUMING THESE POINTS TO BE ACCURATE UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTIFIED, CONSIDER PARA 4B IS BEST ALTERNATIVE TO OUR PRESENT DILEMMA. A 30 TO 60 DAY EXTENSION WOULD CONTINUE EXCELLENT RELATIONS WITH RUYS & COMPANY, PERMIT WORKING OF 1 NOV SHIP, AND INDICATE TO BELGIAN AUTHORITIES IN UPCOMING DISCUSSIONS THAT NEW CONTRACT HINGES ON OUT-COME. ALTERNATE 4C IS ALSO VIABLE BUT NOT AS ACCEPTABLE. ALTERNATIVE 4D APPEARS TO BE LEAST DESIRABLE AND SHOULD NOT BE IMPLEMENTED.

6. VIEWS EXPRESSED ABOVE ARE BASED ON SITUATION AS WE PRESENTLY SEE IT. ENCOURAGE ANY ADDRESSEE TO BRING FORWARD ANY ADDITIONAL FACTS OR ALTERNATIVES THAT BEAR ON PROBLEM. IN THE INTERIM IT IS REITERATED THAT COUNTRY CLNC IS WITHHELD FOR NEGOTIATION OF SUBJECT CONTRACT.

7. FOR DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY. REQUEST APPROVAL OF OPTION 4B, OR ALTERNATIVELY 4C, AND THAT APPROPRIATE AUTHORITIES BE SO NOTIFIED TO PERMIT COMPLETION OF CONTRACTUAL NEGOTIATIONS PRIOR 31 OCT. FIRESONTE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Draft Date: 20 OCT 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ElyME
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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
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Disposition Remarks:
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Errors: N/A
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